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SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6, 1953

We went to the Bonbrights' this morning and had drinks and an affectionate talk with them. Then to lunch with dear Ethel Fowler, still downcast over her brother-in-law Bill Woodward's death. It seems his son will keep on the Belair stud for a trial period of a year.

It is a dismal Sunday, raining but warm. The newspaper reports from Bermuda are tepid.

Read part of Harold Ickes' diary today -- ingrown fellow.

All conversation in Washington appears eventually to lead to mention of McCarthy. This beastly demagogue has debased even the coin of speech. Where he does not disgust, he terrifies, and undoubtedly in many cases influences people to belief in his righteousness. The President should have boycotted him during the campaign -- now he is much tougher to handle.

During the afternoon there was quite an incursion of visitors, including Marietta and Ronnie Tree, Rosemary Elliott, Kay Graham, David Nes (who has been assigned to Tripoli) and David's friend Mr. Roxburghe.

We had dinner with Pauline Davis and her granddaughter Pauline. Pauline Senior has recently been threatened with an operation for a brain tumor but another set of doctors now think the partial paralysis in her left arm comes from a spinal defect. We had a fine time, with much political discussion. Pauline is violently anti-McCarthy.

Went to bed late, and I read Gibbon on the Emperor Julian.

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